

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SY-04 FBIE-00 USSS-00 A-01

IO-14 OPR-02 AID-20 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /125 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1590

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HUTCHISON KIDNAP: LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE OF KIDNAPPING SEPTEMBER 29, 1974, AS OF 3 P.M.
 2. REPORT THAT THE WIFE AND BROTHER OF MENDEZ-VARGAS, HEAD OF GUERRILLA GROUP HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY POLICE (RADIO CLARIN).
 3. RADIO CLARIN INFORMATIVE REPORTED THAT A POLITICAL LEADER SAID THAT KEEPING THE HOSTAGES WAS SUICIDAL ON THE PART OF THE TERRORISTS.
 4. RADIO RELOJ NACIONAL EDITORIAL BY LUIS ARMANDO ASUNCION SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE HOLDING OF THE HOSTAGES IN THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE IS ILLEGAL, THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE KIDNAPPERS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE PRESTIGE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND TO REASSURE OTHER DIPLOMATS IN SANTO DOMINGO.
 5. RADIO RELOJ NACIONAL REPORTED THAT THE SISTER OF DR. MATOS MOQUETE SAID THAT SHE APPROVES OF THE KIDNAPPING IF IT WILL RESULT IN THE RELEASE OF HER BROTHER FROM JAIL, AND HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. IN THE SAME NEWS ITEM, THE MOTHER OF WILSON JOSE
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DE LOBRE, ANOTHER POLITICAL PRISONER ON THE LIST, SAID THAT

SHE DISAPPROVED OF THIS METHOD OF ACHIEVING THE RELEASE OF HER SON.

6. RADIO RELOJ NACIONAL REPORTED THAT THE DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA WAS RETURNING TO SANTO DOMINGO TO OFFER HIMSELF AS A HOSTAGE IN EXCHANGE FOR THOSE WHO ARE BEING HELD IN THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE.

7. RADIO RELOJ NACIONAL REPORTED THAT THE MOTHER OF THE VENEZUELAN CONSUL HAS SENT A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER REQUESTING HIS ASSURANCE OF THE SECURITY OF HER SON. SAME REPORT WAS ALSO TRANSMITTED BY NBC, AND CUBAN AND VENEZUELAN RADIO STATIONS AND RADIO RELOJ REPORTED THIS.

8. AT 8:00 A.M. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THAT THE BOTTLE THROWN FROM THE WINDOW OF THE CONSULATE HAD NOT BEEN PICKED UP.

9. RADIO CRISTAL IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH JUAN GAUTREAUX PINEIRO, RADIO COMMENTARY ON THE PERSONALITY OF MENDEZ VARGAS. GAUTREAUX PINEIRO SAYS THAT THE PEOPLE THINK MENDEZ VARGAS IS A POLITICAL FANATIC, IRRESPONSIBLE, WHO IS NOT THINKING OF HIS FAMILY AND HIS CHILDREN. ALTHOUGH HE IS VIEWED AS A FANATIC, THE PAGES OF HISTORY ARE FULL OF ACCOUNTS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE CONSIDERED TO BE CRAZY, INCLUDING DUARTE... GAUTREAUX PINEIRO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO WATER, ELECTRICITY, OR TELEPHONE SERVICE TO THE CONSULATE ALL THE NEIGHBORING HOUSES HAD UTILITIES. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE POLICE WERE DELIBERATELY CUTTING THE PHONE AND ELECTRICITY IN AN EFFORT TO FORCE THE KIDNAPPERS TO SURRENDER.

10. RADIO CLARIN REPORTED THAT A SECOND BOTTLE WAS THROWN FROM THE CONSULATE, LANDING IN ALMOST THE SAME PLACE AS THE BOTTLE OF LAST NIGHT. THE VENEZUELAN CONSUL CALLED OUT TO THE POLICE ASKING THEM TO PICK UP THE BOTTLE AND DELIVER IT TO THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY.

11. SALVADOR PITTALUGA, MEMBER OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESS, SAID THAT HE WAS USING THE RADIO TO ASK MENDEZ VARGAS TO REMAIN CALM AND TO FOREGO ANY ACT AGAINST THE HOSTAGES AND PITTALUGA SAID THAT HE WAS ASKING THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO
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THE PROBLEM THAT WOULD NOT RESULT IN THE LOSS OF LIVES.

12. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THAT A SECOND MESSAGE HAD BEEN THROWN FROM THE CONSULATE AND IT WAS ADDRESSED TO VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR AND PRESIDENT BALAGUER. THE HOSTAGES ASKED THAT A MEMBER OF THE POLICE FORCE PICK UP THE MESSAGE AND DELIVER IT.

13. RADIO CRISTAL IN A SUMMARY OF EVENTS OF THIS MORNING

DEPLORED THE LACK OF OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION ON THE PART OF THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT. THEY ADDED THAT IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEY WERE DISPOSED TO ALLOW THE 23 GUERRILLAS TO LEAVE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, BUT THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ACCEDE TO ANY OTHER DEMANDS....

14. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL WORD FROM THE GOVERNMENT, EVEN THE POLICE WHO ARE STATIONED OUTSIDE THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

15. RADIO CRISTAL INTERVIEWED THE FATHER OF DULCE MEJIA, ONE OF THE DOMINICAN SECRETARIES WHO IS BEING HELD. SENOR MEJIA SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO DO SOMETHING TO INSURE THE RELEASE OF HIS DAUGHTER AND THE OTHER HOSTAGES...

16. RADIO CRISTAL REPORTED THAT LUIS EDUARDO LORA, EDITOR OF THE NEWSPAPER LA NOTICIA, WAS TAKEN FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN HANDCUFFS AND TAKEN TO AN UNNAMED PLACE. LORA WAS PLACED UNDER ARREST BECAUSE LA NOTICIA PUBLISHED A PICTURE OF BARBARA HUTCHISON, CONSUL DE GREGORIO AND MENDEZ VARGAS INSIDE THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE, SHORTLY AFTER THE GUERRILLAS TOOK OVER THE CONSULATE. NO OFFICIAL POLICE SPOKESMEN WERE AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.

17. RADIO CRISTAL--ELSA EXPOSITO, REPORTER FROM DOMINICAN PRESS, TRIED TO TALK TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER TODAY AS HE WAS LEAVING MASS TO ASK HIM HIS REACTION TO THE KIDNAPPING, BUT ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S SECURITY GUARDS PUSHED HER AWAY TO A DISTANCE WHERE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HER TO TALK TO HIM. THIS MAKES THE WHOLE SITUATION MORE CRITICAL. EVERY TIME A NEWSMAN HAS TRIED TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEWSPERSON HAS BEEN STOPPED BY SECURITY FORCES.

18. RADIO RELOJ NACIONAL REPORTS THAT THE KIDNAPPERS REMAIN INFLEXIBLE IN THEIR DEMANDS, BUT THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE IS TRYING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

19. RADIO CRISTAL--1:10 P.M.--IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NEWSMEN, SALVADOR PITTALUGA ADMITTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS IN NO HURRY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GUERRILLAS..HE SAID THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS EXIST NOW AND THE DIRECTOR OF LISTIN DIARIO, RAFAEL HERRERA, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
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